

Appln. No. 10/058,602
Amendment dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed May 17, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1 through 16 and 24 through 25 remain in this application. Claims 2, 5, and 17 through 23 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn. Claims 26 and 27 have been added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action

Claims 1 through 16 and 21 through 25 have been objected to for the informalities noted in the Office Action.

Claim 21 has been cancelled, and claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to further clarify any informalities in the language.

Withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 through 16 and 24 through 25 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 4 through 6 of the Office Action

Claims 2 through 4, 6 through 12, 16 and 21 through 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stein, U.S. Patent 1,921,489, or in the alternative, under U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Stein.

Claims 2 and 21 through 23 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The dependent claims 3, 4, 6 through 11, 14 through 16, and 24 through 25 have been amended to depend from claim 27, which was

Appln. No. 10/058,602
Amendment dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed May 17, 2004

indicated in the Advisory Action as being allowed, and therefore these claims are submitted to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Dependent claims 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 26, which was also indicated as being allowed in the Advisory Action, and therefore claims 12 and 13 are also submitted to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 3 through 4, 6 through 12, 16 and 24 through 25 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action

Claim 1 has been indicated as appearing to be allowable over the prior art of record, and it is submitted with the language changes requested above in response to the Section 112 objections, that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Paragraph 8 of the Office Action

Paragraph 8 of the Office Action states that claims 5 and 13 through 15 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claims 2 and 5 into the recitation of added claim 26, and therefore claim 26 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claims 2, 12 and 13 into the recitation of added claim 27, and therefore claim 26 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 28 and 29, by virtue of their dependency from added claim 27, are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.


Appln. No. 10/058,602
Amendment dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed May 17, 2004

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LEONARD & PROEHL, Prof. L.L.C.

By 
Jeffrey A. Proehl (Reg. No. 35,987)
LEONARD & PROEHL, Prof. L.L.C.
3500 South First Avenue Circle, Suite 250
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-5807
(605)339-2028 FAX (605)336-1931

Date: SEPT. 15, 2004